UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/20/Add.1
31 December 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON ITS THIRD SESSION, HELD IN RECIFE FROM 15 TO 26 NOVEMBER 1999

Addendum

PART TWO: ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS THIRD SESSION

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I. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Decision 1/COP.3

Agreement concerning the headquarters of the Convention secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 5/COP.1[1/], by which it accepted the offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to host the secretariat of the Convention,

Recalling also that the Headquarters Agreement was signed on 18 August 1998 by the United Nations, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Convention secretariat and that an exchange of notes forming part of the agreement took place on the same day,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Headquarters Agreement entered into force on 8 July 1999[2/];

2. *Renews its appreciation* to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for its commitment to facilitating the establishment of the Convention secretariat in Bonn.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

1/ For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1.

2/ ICCD/COP(3)/8.

Decision 2/COP.3

Medium-term strategy of the secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 7/COP.2[1/] on the medium-term strategy of the secretariat,

Noting with appreciation the work done by the secretariat in preparing a new document on the medium-term strategy based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the second session of the Conference of the Parties, as well as on written submissions by the Parties[2/],

Noting also that the medium-term strategy may be used to guide Parties in their requests to the secretariat,

Emphasizing the fact that facilitating the effective implementation of the Convention requires a strong and capable secretariat,

Taking into account the mandate of the secretariat, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the document on the medium-term strategy of the secretariat,

1. *Takes note* of the medium-term strategy of the secretariat as contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/6 and annexed for information to the present decision;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to establish priorities in its programme of activities;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to facilitate the effective assessment of progress towards attaining the objectives of the Convention by compiling, summarizing and synthesizing all reports on implementation submitted to the secretariat;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake an overall review of the secretariat activities and submit a report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session for consideration.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

1/ For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its second session, see document ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1.

2/ ICCD/COP(3)/6*.

Annex

MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY OF THE SECRETARIAT

Strategic focus for the secretariat in the context of the implementation of the Convention and programme proposals

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I. CONTEXT

1. The worldwide effort to combat desertification, to reverse the processes of desertification and to mitigate the effects of drought in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, have substantial implications because of the geographical scope of these processes, the number of countries affected and the population groups who are the victims. They therefore stand at the heart of the strategies pursued by the international community in order to eradicate poverty, create propitious conditions for sustainable development and save the biosphere from the threats it faces. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which has now been ratified by most countries members of the United Nations and observer countries, bears witness to the universal resolve to translate into new strategies, institutional arrangements and appropriate machinery for concerted action and cooperation, the determination of the signatories and country Parties to respond to this challenge.

2. The Convention joins other international legal instruments which strive to remedy the hurts sustained by the planet. But it is also an innovative instrument in that it has itself the role of relocating a clearly circumscribed problem in the context of sustainable development, particularly in affected developing countries. The Convention encourages further collaboration of activities carried out under its auspices and those of other international agreements, and notes the trend in the commitments of the international community not only to give new impetus to internationally coordinated efforts for improving the quality of life of people leaving in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas but also to deal with the issue of sustainable development in an integrated manner.

3. The Convention should not be seen as initiating a separate programme to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought: the purpose here is to offer to decision makers and all relevant actors, an appropriate tool which could contribute to putting affected developing countries on the road for an overall development planning strategy. In that sense, the Convention is as much a development as an environmental undertaking.

4. The purpose of a strategic framework for the secretariat should be seen as an effort to mainstream its activities and provide Parties and all interested actors with information on the main areas of intervention in the context of the UNCCD.

5. Now that the implementation of the Convention is beginning, it would seem necessary to promote under the guidance of the Parties and in accordance with the UNCCD provisions, a policy framework which could serve as an information source on the activities of the secretariat.

6. The Convention assigns specific roles and obligations to all relevant actors and the secretariat constitutes one prominent element of that framework. The strategy to be put in place will serve essentially to help affected developing country Parties to implement the Convention, bearing in mind that the secretariat has neither the mandate nor the operational capability to meet every request. It is however the secretariat's role to promote the implementation of the Convention by providing various Parties with information that will enable them to coordinate their efforts towards successful activities under the UNCCD.

II. STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR THE SECRETARIAT (2000-2001)

A. Mission statement

7. The Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought entered into force on 26 December 1996. Through it, the signatory and country Parties endorsed for the first time a concept of international law which extends well beyond the specialized topics that are generally the subject of such conventions. The international community, which recognizes the global dimension of the problem of desertification and the effects of drought as well as its social, economic and political implications, has enacted legal provisions which refer expressly to worldwide obligations relating to development and integrated action in the field of natural resources. The topic of desertification is thus no longer a specific environmental problem, but forms a framework which can help countries to act in a more structured and more consistent way in the various fields which influence the solution of the problems addressed by the Convention.

8. In this respect, the Convention makes a substantial addition to all the measures, programmes and resolutions which, since the first United Nations Conference on Desertification in Nairobi in 1977, have sought, with uneven or inadequate results, to respond to the challenges posed by this very grave threat. The Convention contains many provisions which refer to integrated approaches, methodologies, and specific and global measures which will make it possible to tackle desertification effectively and enhance efforts to mitigate the effects of drought. However, the Convention has yet to find a true identity, in the sense of the way in which it will be perceived by the actors concerned as an effective instrument for combating desertification and the effects of drought. It can hope to reach this goal only gradually, essentially by means of practical action combined with a substantial capacity for adaptation, and provided that major cooperating partners are fully involved and supportive of the efforts of the affected developing country Parties.

9. Indeed, the secretariat constitutes a key element of the machinery put in place by the Convention. Given the fact that desertification is only one of the major problems country Parties have to face, it seems important to have a secretariat which could perform, in the light of UNCCD provisions and decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), key functions such as servicing the Parties, and facilitating upon request the efforts of the affected developing country Parties in specific activities under the Convention. Further, the secretariat should continue its efforts to promote the comparative advantage of the Convention and to facilitate consultative processes leading to closer partnerships. This effort to link up with all actors, including the United Nations specialized agencies, developed countries and international organizations, would be a consolidation of previous roles played by this secretariat over the years.

10. It is important to underline that the functions mentioned can only be discharged by taking into consideration not only the actual resources available to the secretariat in responding to demand for services. Account should also be taken of the perception of the needs of the affected developing country Parties.

11. Taking into consideration the above, the secretariat would like to continue working in a manner that helps restore an agro-ecological balance in the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, to take the necessary steps towards strengthening the capabilities for implementation of the Convention at various levels, and to support consultation on the participation process as well as the establishment of partnership arrangements.

B. Components of the strategy

12. An important element of the secretariat's role would be to continue providing support to initiatives that may be taken by the Parties to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention. Of importance here are the primary positions of the specialized United Nations agencies and other international partners, which have complementary roles to play in UNCCD implementation.

13. The main elements of the secretariat's strategy in the coming years would be to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, notably by:

- Making effective arrangements for and providing high-quality services and documentation to sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies;
- Ensuring the linkages with other sister conventions and deriving maximum benefit from the coordination of its activities with secretariats of other relevant international bodies;
- Strengthening public awareness;
- Contributing to building appropriate methodologies for participatory approaches;
- Ensuring the promotion of cooperation with public and private entities;
- Contributing to strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas through a UNCCD approach;
- Continuing the promotion of the role of women and other major groups, including the non-governmental organizations community;
- Continuing the assistance to affected developing country Parties on request and in accordance with the UNCCD and decisions taken by the COP.

14. This is a huge task, and the secretariat can only discharge it by working progressively towards a well identified medium-term objective supported by the Conference of the Parties. It is expected therefore that efforts will be made to ensure that the role of "advocacy" and "synergy" of the secretariat can effectively be increased.

III. MAIN AREAS IN THE PROPOSED SECRETARIAT PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

15. Since the adoption and entry into force of the Convention, the secretariat has been involved in various activities under the guidance of the country Parties. Reports on these activities have always been presented to the Parties during negotiation sessions and the first two sessions of the Conference of the Parties. The areas of action under the proposed programme are essentially a continuation of the secretariat's efforts to fulfil its functions in the context of the UNCCD. The said areas are as follows:

(a) Providing core secretariat services;

(b) Facilitating UNCCD implementation processes, including supporting participatory development;

(c) Cooperating with the secretariats of other sustainable development conventions;

(d) Promoting awareness creation and facilitating dissemination and exchange of information.

A. Providing core secretariat services

16. In keeping with the provisions of the Convention, the action undertaken under this heading will essentially be aimed at providing the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies with the services functionally devolving upon the secretariat. Such services include institutional, legal and logistic support for the smooth operation of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies. They also include liaison and external relations functions, as well as administrative and budgetary functions. As requested by the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat will also continue to provide services to the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). Action will take the form of organizing periodic and ad hoc meetings of the CST; carrying out the studies requested by the CST; and facilitating the work of the CST between sessions.

B. Facilitating UNCCD implementation processes, including supporting participatory development

17. In the light of the Convention and the regional implementation annexes, the action undertaken in this field will be aimed at urging the Parties to the Convention to draw up action programmes at various levels. The secretariat will continue to facilitate the consultative processes, which will lead to the conclusion of partnership agreements and mobilize the commitments of major international cooperation partners. The role of the secretariat will also be to take stock of action taken and evaluate progress made in the implementation of the Convention. For this purpose, the secretariat will work closely with the existing specialized agencies that are in a position to take part in the UNCCD process. In that sense, it is expected that more institutional arrangements will be concluded with other international agencies and organizations. The whole purpose here is to put at the service of affected developing country Parties the support that could facilitate their efforts to implement the Convention.

C. Cooperation with the secretariats of other sustainable development conventions

18. As stipulated in the relevant provisions of the Convention and decisions of the COP, the secretariat will continue the collaboration initiated with other convention secretariats and international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Arrangements have already been made with the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Ramsar Convention. Similar arrangements are being finalized with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNESCO, UNEP and the GEF. The rationale to promote cooperation with these bodies includes the fact that they present a convergence of objectives for achieving sustainable development. In the context of the UNCCD, this cooperation would contribute to a more effective implementation of the action programmes at various levels. Efforts will be made to develop in particular the following: capacity-building, exchange of information, networking, research and development, and the transfer, adaptation and development of technology.

D. Promoting awareness creation and facilitating dissemination and exchange of information

19. The secretariat proposes to continue creating awareness among actors and world public opinion regarding the challenges posed by the need to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. In a media environment dominated by the globalization of the world economy, the problems relating to the long-term risks of environmental degradation remain widely ignored by public opinion. The objective is essentially to prompt collective awareness of the worldwide risks arising from desertification and the effects of drought. This action will be targeted on the main actors involved and the public at large. The limited financial resources allocated to efforts to combat desertification and the effects of drought constitute one of the most significant pointers to the marginalization of the "environmental emergency".

20. Pursuant to the Convention and under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat has the role of an ombudsman for the timely and efficient implementation of the Convention. It is the task of the secretariat to continue publicizing the text of the Convention and to draw the attention of the general public to the challenges presented by the UNCCD.

21. The secretariat would like to put the accent on disseminating information on the action taken so far. Hence the secretariat should address in particular the decision makers in the governmental apparatus as well as civil society and public opinion in general. Effort should be increased to introduce the subject of the Convention into the fields of politics, law, education, research, science and ethics. The Conference of the Parties would ensure that the secretariat is provided with adequate means to fully carry out these tasks and thereby promote the effective implementation of the Convention.

IV. OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECRETARIAT

22. In line with the provisions of the Convention and decisions of the COP, the secretariat can only stimulate most of the proposed activities. Most of these activities are to be carried out by the Parties themselves.

A. Institutional, legal and logistic support provided to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies

23. The provision of institutional and logistic support for the organization of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, is a fundamental task of the secretariat. These activities involve the preparation of reports before and after the sessions as well as the activation of a permanent system for monitoring and evaluating the application of the Convention. This would also include support to the CST by creating contacts with research institutions and facilitating linkages between the CST and the international scientific community. The secretariat will also continue to provide legal services for issues raised by the implementation of the Convention.

B. Liaison and external relations

24. The secretariat is the appropriate body to facilitate the initiatives required for the launching of the processes of integration of effort to combat desertification as a specific dimension of almost all development programmes in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. Based on the previous work undertaken in this area, the secretariat will continue to discharge its functions in close contact with existing institutions that are involved in the UNCCD related activities. The external relations functions will also comprise the information, communication and consultation services described in other sections of the proposed programmes of work.

C. Evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the Convention

25. Evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the Convention is also one of the secretariat's basic functions. The secretariat's task here would be to collect and analyse data reflecting progress made in the implementation of the Convention. The objective would be to serve the needs of various actors for reliable information on the trend of desertification. In so doing, the secretariat will facilitate and support the effective assessment of progress towards attaining the objectives of the Convention. It has to be noted however, that this activity requires the full support of the Conference of the Parties and the involvement of various specialized agencies and institutions.

D. Facilitating UNCCD implementation processes, including supporting participatory development

(a) Contributions to promoting consistency between national action programmes and the approaches recommended in the Convention

26. In partnership with other institutions, the secretariat would have the task of promoting consistency between the national action programmes to be drawn up by the Parties. The role of the secretariat here is mainly to assist, on request, the organization of seminars and workshops; stimulate efforts to tackle issues arising in terms of the legislative and regulatory frameworks; promote participatory pilot projects for local development; and assist national coordinating bodies to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. This support could take the form of assistance in preparing national reports, capacity-building, and formulating specific projects related to the national action programme processes.

(b) Fostering consultative meetings and forums

27. The secretariat will continue to stress the need for support towards a full implementation of the Convention, especially in affected developing country Parties. It is the secretariat's task to recall that the Convention provides a unique opportunity to establish partnership agreements and coherence by bringing together all major players to support anti-desertification activities. It is crucial therefore that the secretariat explore further with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Global Mechanism ways and means to facilitate the implementation of the Convention in the framework of specific arrangements. The secretariat will also develop and strengthen its cooperation with other partners including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, the World Bank, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), regional development banks and other financing institutions.

(c) Specific contributions to help in the preparation of subregional and regional action programmes

28. The secretariat will continue to facilitate activities upon request to assist the subregional and regional organizations, in the context of the UNCCD. This support could take the form of facilitating the organization of meetings, seminars and workshops; facilitating the mobilization of expertise likely to assist in the identification of priorities; formulating specific projects; and monitoring and evaluating action programmes.

(d) Support for interregional initiatives

29. The secretariat will continue to support interregional initiatives as it has begun to do, by organizing the consultative meetings, which aim at promoting cooperation among regions. At this stage, important steps have been taken by the country Parties concerned towards closer cooperation between Asia and Africa; Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean; and Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe.

(e) Supporting participatory development

30. The strengthening of cooperation with non-governmental organizations constitutes one of the activities of the secretariat. However, if this cooperation is to be developed, the approach to mobilize non-governmental organizations would be to pass on the message relating to the existing networks of institutions involved in environmental issues.

E. Facilitating dissemination and exchange of information

(a) Creation of awareness among actors and public opinion

31. Creation of awareness among actors and public opinion in general is a fundamental dimension of the UNCCD process. The public at large should be informed of the risks posed by desertification and the effects of drought. It should also be persuaded that it has a role to play by contributing to currents of opinion and taking initiatives in support. The creation of this awareness involves a public information policy which is consistent and multifaceted. Such a policy could be based on the production of information material aimed at the general public, the dissemination of educational material for use by teachers, press campaigns and a permanent interaction with the media.

(b) Production of information material

32. The secretariat will continue the efforts already undertaken to produce information material. It will include in particular a quarterly newsletter, press releases, publications on evaluations and studies, programmes for radio and television, information tools for the public (kits for spreading information about the Convention, posters, etc.).

(c) Establishment of a reference unit

33. This unit will include an internal library with the possibility of consulting documentary references over the Internet. It will also include a computerized system for access to the main data banks dealing with the issues covered by the Convention. It should be noted that the secretariat has become a recipient of

information and that it is therefore acquiring a reference collection of general interest.

(d) Establishment of an information and communication system

34. The secretariat has developed an information and communication system based on Internet technologies. Electronic networks have been developed, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. It might be expanded by devising specific programmes to help national focal points and other participants involved to acquire appropriate equipment and training in its use. The information "products" offered to the Parties might include specific data banks dealing with the activities of the secretariat, the Conference of the Parties and the subsidiary bodies, interactive information systems on regional activities to implement the Convention (electronic regional forums, country information networks, etc.), and networking of the institutions and agencies expected to cooperate under the Convention's regional action programmes to combat desertification.

V. CONCLUSION

35. The implementation of the proposed programme for the biennium 2000-2001 should be seen as a consolidation of the previous activities in which the secretariat has been involved since the adoption of the Convention: they have aimed at promoting the Convention and facilitating the formulation and implementation of the action programmes under the guidance of the COP. The activities undertaken by the secretariat have always been initiated at the request of the country Parties and within the limits of the functions of the secretariat.

36. The programme before you aims at providing a comprehensive picture of the secretariat's role during the years to come and specific activities to be envisaged in the context of the implementation of the Convention, especially in affected developing country Parties.

37. It is to be noted that the activities envisaged can only succeed if the secretariat continues to mobilize collaboration and appropriate support of the United Nations specialized agencies, relevant international organizations and the non-governmental community. Efforts made by the secretariat to support the UNCCD processes could be evaluated periodically by the Parties.

38. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the proposed programme for the next two years and provide guidance to the secretariat in the areas of activity outlined in this document.

Decision 3/COP.3

Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 6/COP.1,

Recalling also paragraphs 3, 9 and 10 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties[1/],

Having considered the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 submitted by the Executive Secretary[2/], the report on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999[3/], and the report on the status of the trust funds in 1999[4/],

Noting with appreciation the annual contribution of the host Government of DM 1 million, which offsets contributions from other Parties to the Convention,

A. The core budget

1. *Approves* the core budget for the biennium 2000-2001, amounting to US$ 13,660,400, for the purposes specified in table 1 below;

2. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2000 and 2001 contained in the annex to this decision, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total;

3. *Approves* the staffing table for the core budget, as contained in table 2 below;

4. *Approves* a contingency budget for conference servicing, amounting to US$ 5,368,900, to be added to the programme budget for the coming biennium in the event that the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (see tables 3 and 4 below);

5. *Confirms* its authorization to the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines 1 to 6 set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply;

1/ Decision 2/COP.1.

2/ ICCD/COP(3)/2 and Add.1.

3/ ICCD/COP(3)/4 and Add.1 and 2.

4/ ICCD/COP(3)/3 and Add.1.

6. *Decides* to maintain the level of the working capital reserve at 8.3 per cent of the estimated expenditure, including overhead charges, of the core budget;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue negotiations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue of an allotment of overheads for the financing of additional posts or activities in the administrative area of the secretariat, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

8. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core budget are expected on or before 1 January of each year in accordance with paragraph 14 of the financial rules of the Convention, and to pay promptly and in full, for each of the years 2000 and 2001, the contributions required to finance the expenditures approved under paragraph 1 above, as offset by the estimated contribution noted under the fourth paragraph of the preamble to this decision, and the contributions which may result from the decision referred to in paragraph 4 above;

9. *Calls upon* Parties that have not yet done so to pay as soon as possible and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for 1999;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the need for, feasibility of, and modalities for regional coordination units and the costs involved with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the financial performance of the Convention budget and to submit proposals on how the budgeting and reporting process could be improved, taking into account the developments and practices in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and any other relevant intergovernmental organizations, and to propose any adjustments which might be needed for the biennium 2000-2001;

B. The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund

12. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Government of Germany for its generous contribution of DM 1 million to the secretariat for Convention events organized by the secretariat;

13. *Notes* the estimated additional cost that will be incurred in the event that the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties is held in Bonn (see table 5 below), and invites the Executive Secretary to seek additional contributions to cover that cost and/or draw on any savings or surplus from the 1999 budget;

14. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for the Supplementary Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in document ICCD/COP(3)/2/Add.1 (US$ 17,471,000 for the biennium 2000-2001; see table 6 below) and invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 9 of the financial rules, in order to:

(a) Support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2(c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention, as well as the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes;

(c) Advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

15. *Further takes note* of the funding estimates for the Special Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in that same document (US$ 3,164,000 for the biennium 2000-2001; see table 7 below), and invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 10 of the financial rules, in order to support the participation of developing, and in particular least developed country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules and seek the views of Parties on how the financial reporting to the Conference of the Parties could be improved and report on this issue to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session.

Table 1. Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Programme	2000	2001	Total (2000-2001)
1.	Policy-making organs	55.0	55.0	110.0
2.	Executive direction and management	752.4	736.4	1 488.8
3.	Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies	555.1	530.8	1 085.9
4.	Facilitation of implementation and coordination	1 653.3	1 645.6	3 298.9
5.	External relations and public information	485.1	481.1	966.2
6.	Administration and finance	1 183.6	1 185.6	2 369.2
7.	Global Mechanism	1 300.0	1 350.0	2 650.0
		5 984.5	**5 984.5**	**11 969.0**
	Overhead	778.0	778.0	1 556.0
	Working capital reserve*	135.4	0	135.4
	Total	**6 897.9**	**6 762.5**	**13 660.4**
	Less: voluntary contribution from the Host Government	568.2	568.2	1 136.4
	Net required as indicative contributions	**6 329.7**	**6 194.3**	**12 524.0**

* In accordance with paragraph 8 of the financial rules for the Convention, the amount indicated is the difference between the current amount of the working capital reserve in 1999 (US$ 425,900) and the amount of US$ 561,300 required for the biennium 2000-2001.

Table 2. Staffing table for biennium 2000-2001

		2000	2001
I.	Professional category and above		
	ASG	1	1
	D-1	2	2
	P-5	6	6
	P-4	8	10
	P-3	7	7
	P-2	3	4
	Subtotal	**27**	**30**
II.	General Service category	12	13
	Total	**39**	**43**

Table 3. Estimate for contingency for conference services
(in the event that the General Assembly decides not to include the sessions of the Conference of the Parties in its regular budget)
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Item of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
United Nations meeting services	2 281.0	2 281.0	4 562.0
Overhead charge	296.5	296.5	593.0
Working capital reserve	213.9	0	213.9
TOTAL	**2 791.4**	**2 577.5**	**5 368.9**

Table 4. Staff requirement for the conference services contingency

	2000	2001
A. Professional category and above		
P.4	1	1
Total Professional category and above	1	1
B. Total General Service category	2	2
Total (A+B)	3	3

Table 5. Incremental costs of holding the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Item of expenditure	2000
Incremental costs	942.2
Contingencies	29.0
Subtotal	971.2
Overhead charge	126.3
Working capital reserve	91.1
TOTAL	**1 188.6**

Table 6. Supplementary Fund estimated resource requirement
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Item of expenditure	2000	2001	TOTAL
Estimated resource requirement	7 950.2	7 510.9	15 461.1
Overhead*	1 033.5	976.4	2 009.9
Total	**8 983.7**	**8 487.3**	**17 471.0**

Table 7. Special Fund estimated resource requirement
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Item of expenditure	2000	2001	TOTAL
Travel of representatives and participants to meetings	1 400.0	1 400.0	2 800.0
Overhead*	182.0	182.0	364.0
Total	**1 582.0**	**1 582.0**	**3 164.0**

* Standard 13 per cent applied by the United Nations for administrative support.

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Annex

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CORE BUDGET OF UNCCD (2000-2001)

Parties to the UNCCD 1/	Indicative scale (%)	Estimated 2000 contributions (US$)	Estimated 2001 contributions
1 Afghanistan *	0.004	250	250
2 Algeria	0.121	7 660	7 500
3 Angola *	0.010	630	620
4 Antigua and Barbuda	0.003	190	190
5 Argentina	1.548	97 980	95 890
6 Armenia	0.008	510	500
7 Austria	1.322	83 680	81 890
8 Azerbaijan	0.016	1 010	990
9 Bahrain	0.024	1 520	1 490
10 Bangladesh *	0.010	630	620
11 Barbados	0.012	760	740
12 Belgium	1.549	98 050	95 950
13 Belize	0.001	60	60
14 Benin *	0.003	190	190
15 Bolivia	0.009	570	560
16 Botswana	0.014	890	870
17 Brazil	2.064	130 650	127 850
18 Burkina Faso *	0.003	190	190
19 Burundi *	0.001	60	60
20 Cambodia *	0.001	60	60
21 Cameroon	0.018	1 140	1 110
22 Canada	3.834	242 680	237 490
23 Cape Verde *	0.003	190	190
24 Central African Republic *	0.001	60	60
25 Chad *	0.001	60	60
26 Chile	0.191	12 090	11 830
27 China	1.396	88 360	86 470
28 Colombia	0.153	9 680	9 480
29 Comoros *	0.001	60	60
30 Congo *	0.004	250	250
31 Cook Islands	0.001	60	60
32 Costa Rica	0.022	1 390	1 360
33 Cote d'Ivoire	0.013	820	810
34 Cuba	0.034	2 150	2 110
35 Democratic Republic of the Congo *	0.010	630	620
36 Denmark	0.971	61 460	60 150
37 Djibouti *	0.001	60	60
38 Dominica	0.001	60	60
39 Dominican Republic	0.021	1 330	1 300
40 Ecuador	0.028	1 770	1 730
41 Egypt	0.091	5 760	5 640
42 El Salvador	0.017	1 080	1 050
43 Equatorial Guinea *	0.001	60	60

Parties to the UNCCD 1/	Indicative scale (%)	Estimated 2000 contributions (US$)	Estimated 2001 contributions
44 Eritrea *	0.001	60	60
45 Ethiopia *	0.008	510	500
46 European Community	2.500	158 240	154 860
47 Fiji	0.005	320	310
48 Finland	0.762	48 230	47 200
49 France	9.185	581 380	568 950
50 Gabon	0.021	1 330	1 300
51 Gambia *	0.001	60	60
52 Georgia	0.009	570	560
53 Germany	13.832	875 520	856 800
54 Ghana	0.009	570	560
55 Greece	0.493	31 210	30 540
56 Grenada	0.001	60	60
57 Guatemala	0.025	1 580	1 550
58 Guinea *	0.004	250	250
59 Guinea-Bissau *	0.001	60	60
60 Guyana	0.001	60	60
61 Haiti *	0.003	190	190
62 Honduras	0.004	250	250
63 Hungary	0.169	10 700	10 470
64 Iceland	0.045	2 850	2 790
65 India	0.420	26 580	26 020
66 Indonesia	0.263	16 650	16 290
67 Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.226	14 310	14 000
68 Ireland	0.315	19 940	19 510
69 Israel	0.491	31 080	30 410
70 Italy	7.629	482 890	472 560
71 Jamaica	0.008	510	500
72 Japan	25.000	1 582 540	1 548 500
73 Jordan	0.008	510	500
74 Kazakhstan	0.067	4 240	4 150
75 Kenya	0.009	570	560
76 Kiribati	0.001	60	60
77 Kuwait	0.179	11 330	11 090
78 Kyrgyzstan	0.008	510	500
79 Lao People's Democratic Republic *	0.001	60	60
80 Lebanon	0.022	1 390	1 360
81 Lesotho *	0.003	190	190
82 Liberia *	0.003	190	190
83 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.174	11 010	10 780
84 Luxembourg	0.095	6 010	5 880
85 Madagascar *	0.004	250	250
86 Malawi *	0.003	190	190
87 Malaysia	0.257	16 270	15 920
88 Mali *	0.003	190	190
89 Malta	0.020	1 270	1 240
90 Marshall Islands	0.001	60	60

Parties to the UNCCD 1/	Indicative scale (%)	Estimated 2000 contributions (US$)	Estimated 2001 contributions
91 Mauritania *	0.001	60	60
92 Mauritius	0.013	820	810
93 Mexico	1.396	88 360	86 470
94 Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	60	60
95 Monaco	0.005	320	310
96 Mongolia	0.003	190	190
97 Morocco	0.058	3 670	3 590
98 Mozambique *	0.001	60	60
99 Myanmar *	0.010	630	620
100 Namibia	0.009	570	560
101 Nauru	0.001	60	60
102 Nepal *	0.005	320	310
103 Netherlands	2.290	144 950	141 850
104 Nicaragua	0.001	60	60
105 Niger *	0.003	190	190
106 Nigeria	0.045	2 850	2 790
107 Niue	0.001	60	60
108 Norway	0.856	54 180	53 020
109 Oman	0.071	4 490	4 400
110 Pakistan	0.083	5 250	5 140
111 Palau *	0.001	70	60
112 Panama	0.018	1 140	1 110
113 Paraguay	0.020	1 270	1 240
114 Peru	0.138	8 730	8 550
115 Portugal	0.605	38 290	37 480
116 Qatar	0.046	2 910	2 850
117 Republic of Korea	1.412	89 380	87 460
118 Moldova	0.014	890	870
119 Romania	0.079	5 000	4 890
120 Rwanda *	0.001	60	60
121 Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	60	60
122 Saint Lucia	0.001	60	60
123 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	60	60
124 Samoa *	0.001	60	60
125 San Marino *	0.003	190	190
126 Sao Tome and Principe *	0.001	60	60
127 Saudi Arabia	0.789	49 940	48 870
128 Senegal	0.008	510	500
129 Seychelles	0.003	190	190
130 Sierra Leone *	0.001	60	60
131 Singapore	0.251	15 890	15 550
132 Solomon Islands	0.001	60	60
133 South Africa	0.514	32 530	31 840
134 Spain	3.636	230 150	225 220
135 Sri Lanka	0.017	1 080	1 050
136 Sudan *	0.009	570	560

Parties to the UNCCD 1/	Indicative scale (%)	Estimated 2000 contributions (US$)	Estimated 2001 contributions
137 Swaziland	0.003	190	190
138 Sweden	1.514	95 830	93 780
139 Switzerland	1.705	107 920	105 610
140 Syrian Arab Republic	0.090	5 700	5 570
141 Tajikistan	0.005	320	310
142 Togo *	0.001	60	60
143 Tonga	0.001	60	60
144 Tunisia	0.039	2 470	2 420
145 Turkey	0.618	39 120	38 280
146 Turkmenistan	0.008	510	500
147 Tuvalu	0.001	60	60
148 Uganda *	0.005	320	310
149 United Arab Emirates	0.250	15 820	15 490
150 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7.145	452 260	442 580
151 United Republic of Tanzania *	0.004	250	250
152 Uruguay	0.067	4 240	4 150
153 Uzbekistan	0.035	2 220	2 170
154 Vanuatu	0.001	60	60
155 Venezuela	0.224	14 180	13 880
156 Viet Nam	0.009	570	560
157 Yemen *	0.010	630	620
158 Zambia *	0.003	190	190
159 Zimbabwe	0.013	820	810
Total from Parties	**100.000**	**6 329 700**	**6 194 300**

1/ Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties to the Convention as of 31 December 1999.

* Least developed country.

Decision 4/COP.3

Programme of work for the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 9/COP.1 and 2/COP.2 on its programme of work, 10/COP.1 on review of the implementation of the Convention and 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

1. *Decides* to include the following selected items in the agenda of its fourth session and, if necessary, its fifth session:

(a) Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention:

(i) Review of reports on implementation of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

(ii) Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa;

(iii) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(iv) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention;

(v) Consideration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention, with a view to adopting it;

(b) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(c) Review, pursuant to the same article, of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it;

(d) Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention;

(e) Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies;

(f) Adjustment of the programme and budget;

(g) Consideration of outstanding items:

(i) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

(ii) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6, of the Convention;

(iii) Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure;

(h) Open dialogue with non-governmental organizations;

2. *Decides also* to include the following selected item in the agenda of its fifth session:

(a) Adoption of the programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least three months prior to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in paragraph 1 above.

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Decision 5/COP.3

Consideration of reports on implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 26 of the Convention,

Recalling also decisions 10/COP.1 and 10/COP.2 on review of the implementation of the Convention as well as decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

Having considered reports submitted by affected African country Parties, subregional organizations, developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on the implementation of the Convention and the compilation and synthesis of these by the secretariat,

Having also considered the relevance of comments, suggestions and recommendations contained in the reports and those made during the panel discussions at its current session,

A. Reports by affected developing countries

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in affected African country Parties, demonstrating the considerable range of activities and efforts already undertaken in implementation of the Convention, particularly in the elaboration, adoption and implementation of action programmes;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the considerable number of reports submitted by African country Parties for review by the Conference of the Parties at its current session;

3. *Encourages* affected developing countries to sustain and strengthen reforms currently in progress toward greater decentralization and to pursue their efforts in implementing the Convention, notably at local level;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the empowerment of people and their involvement in the process of formulating, implementing, and evaluating national action programmes;

5. *Encourages* affected developing country Parties to strengthen, as appropriate, links between national focal points and their authorities responsible for development cooperation;

6. *Also encourages* affected developing country Parties to enhance integration of the implementation of the Convention into national development strategies and other relevant policy areas;

B. Reports by subregional and regional organizations

7. *Recognizes* the important role played by African subregional and regional organizations in the elaboration and implementation of regional and subregional action programmes and through assisting some countries in the elaboration and implementation of their national action programmes;

8. *Recognizes* the need to take necessary measures to integrate African countries not members of the aforementioned organizations in the preparation and implementation of subregional action programmes covering the five African subregions as stated in article 10 of the regional implementation annex for Africa;

9. *Recognizes* the subregional and regional action programmes as potential tools to address, inter alia, sustainable management of transboundary natural resources and promote initiatives where increased efficiency can be obtained through joint action;

10. *Invites* the regional and subregional organizations to include as appropriate in their agenda the promotion of cooperation and exchange of experience between their member states related to implementation of the Convention;

11. *Also invites* African affected country Parties to establish the appropriate interface between national, subregional and regional action programmes through sufficient consultations between the processes;

12. *Recommends* that affected developing country Parties should ensure that subregional and regional action programmes do not implement projects and activities similar to those deriving from national action programmes, by focusing on themes where subregional and regional activities clearly have a comparative advantage over national action programmes.

C. Reports by developed countries

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the continuous support provided by several developed country Parties for activities related to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought;

14. *Takes note* of the need to clearly differentiate the contributions allocated for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and land degradation from other official development assistance and to disseminate that information;

15. *Urges* developed country Parties to strengthen their efforts in creating awareness of matters related to the Convention among all their relevant institutions and bodies;

16. *Encourages* developed country Parties, in order for the Convention to be effectively and efficiently implemented, to coordinate and strengthen their efforts to integrate implementation of the Convention into ongoing and future bilateral and multilateral development cooperation;

17. *Calls upon* developed country Parties to undertake efforts to improve their reports on measures taken to assist affected developing country Parties in the implementation of the Convention, and to submit these reports in timely fashion for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;

18. *Urges* developed country Parties to support affected developing country Parties in strengthening the linkages between the Convention and other Rio conventions, in order to share experience and to use, as appropriate, common data;

D. Reports by United Nations system organizations and by intergovernmental organizations

19. *Recommends* that the experience and lessons learned from establishing technical networks between affected countries and from developing monitoring systems for drought and freshwater and environmental management systems by the United Nations specialized agencies, are disseminated to all relevant forums;

20. *Stresses* the importance of the coordination of technical work between the United Nations specialized agencies and the secretariat;

E. Reports by non-governmental organizations

21. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the reports and case studies presented by non-governmental organizations on their activities in the implementation of action programmes, particularly national action programmes, and encourages submission of reports especially through their network organizations;

22. *Recognizes* the special role and contribution of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of measures to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought and encourages Parties to draw upon their capabilities to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

F. Other issues

23. *Encourages* Parties to assess and evaluate progress made in implementing the Convention by using pertinent, quantifiable and readily verifiable indicators and benchmarks, including those related to measuring the participation of all local populations, communities and major groups, particularly women and youth;

24. *Requests* the Parties to take measures to ensure that women's capacity, particularly at grass-roots level, is reinforced through the national action programmes, including: awareness raising, education, training, income-generating activities and access to credit; and to encourage the participation of women in decision-making processes for the implementation of the Convention;

25. *Calls upon* Governments, developed countries, United Nations agencies and programmes, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector for further support in order to enhance the implementation of the Convention by providing financial resources and by facilitating the transfer of technology to affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, as well as by improving coordination among all actors;

26. *Requests* the secretariat to provide for the forthcoming sessions of the Conference of the Parties a synthesis by each subregion, with the aim of elaborating a comparative document on the progress made by affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention;

27. *Takes note* of the collaboration between the secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in the process of

establishing regional coordination units in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean and also takes note of the decision made at the Conference of the Parties at its third session to request the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the need for, feasibility of, and modalities for the regional coordination units, and the costs involved, with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision;

28. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to prepare a guide to help affected developing country Parties in the convening of consultative processes leading to the conclusion of partnership agreements based on experience with other such arrangements and innovative processes;

29. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention, to effectively assist affected African country Parties, upon request, in facilitating the convocation of consultative processes in order to negotiate and conclude partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes;

30. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to report at each session on their role to facilitate these processes and the results obtained.

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Decision 6/COP.3

Procedure for the review of the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 10/COP.1 and 10/COP.2 on the review of the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also article 22, paragraph 2(a), (b) and (c), as well as articles 24 and 26 of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the remarkable number and quality of reports submitted by the affected African country Parties and the efforts made by the secretariat in producing a compilation and synthesis of the reports on the implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties;

2. *Takes note* of the organization of panel discussions on the consideration of national reports on the implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties;

3. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc working group to review and analyse in depth, at the fourth session, reports submitted at its third session and reports which will be submitted at its fourth session in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Recalls* that reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism consistent with their respective mandates and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for, shall constitute the basis of the review of the implementation by the Conference of the Parties, and therefore invites the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism to provide advice and information to be used for the review of the implementation of the Convention at its fourth session;

5. *Invites* the Parties and the other interested institutions and organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to submit written proposals, no later than 30 April 2002, on the needs for the establishment of additional procedures and the outlines of these possible procedures, to be compiled, summarized and circulated by the secretariat in order to facilitate considerations and take decisions at its sixth session;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to make all necessary arrangements for the above-mentioned ad hoc working group to fulfil its mandate and to meet at the fourth session.

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Decision 7/COP.3

Additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for Central and Eastern Europe

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and 53/191 of 15 December 1998 on implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also its decision 11/COP.2, in which the Conference urged observer countries of Central and Eastern Europe to take appropriate actions to become parties to the Convention and invited them to produce a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session,

Welcoming the process of accession of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to the Convention as well as the progress made in producing a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for countries of Central and Eastern Europe,

1. *Invites* the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and all Parties to the Convention to continue, under the auspices of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, the process of consultations on the draft additional implementation annex with a view to adopting it at its fourth session;

2. *Requests* the secretariat, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to arrange and facilitate the process of consultations on finalizing the text of an additional regional implementation annex for countries of Central and Eastern Europe;

3. *Invites* the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to continue their efforts towards their accession to the Convention.

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Decision 8/COP.3

The Recife Initiative:
Towards enhancing the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to its implementation and to the obligations of the Parties,

Underlining that efforts to prevent and control desertification have not been sufficient to stem its spread,

Asserting that achievement of the objectives of the Convention depends on the active fulfilment of commitments and effective participation of all relevant parties in the process of formulating and implementing action programmes, as well as an enabling environment,

Taking into account the efforts already made in the framework of regional, subregional and national action programmes and the contribution of all Parties thereto,

Reiterating the need to adopt measures that will contribute to the eradication of poverty by reducing the vulnerability of people living in areas of the world affected by desertification and drought,

Reaffirming the urgent need to mobilize substantial financial resources and to promote transfer of technology, know-how and capacity-building for combating desertification and drought processes,

Having considered the reports on implementation of the Convention submitted by subregional organizations and developed country Parties, as well as international organizations and agencies and non-governmental organizations,

Taking into account the obstacles encountered by developing countries as reflected in their national reports, as well as lessons learned in their efforts to implement the Convention,

With a view to undertaking to identify the critical elements necessary to enhance implementation of the Convention,

1. *Stresses* the necessity to formulate, for consideration and adoption at its fourth session in the year 2000, a declaration on the commitments under the Convention to enhance implementation of the obligations of the Convention;

2. *Stresses also* that the declaration should cover an agreed period and be focused on a limited number of specific thematic and sectoral areas to be determined and consistent with action programmes under the Convention;

3. *Stresses further* the need to integrate implementation of the Convention into the mainstream national development strategies of affected countries, in particular developing country Parties, as well as into the relevant mainstream strategies and operations of all developed country Parties and multilateral and other development institutions;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of further work on benchmarks and indicators with a view to developing suitable quantitative and qualitative systems of evaluation;

5. *Further emphasizes* the need to provide expertise, especially to affected developing country Parties, in order to support the implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels, including implementation-related inputs from the Committee on Science and Technology;

6. *Invites* all Parties, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to submit their written proposals and/or suggestions for the text of the declaration to the secretariat no later than 30 April 2000;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations and the private sector to bring further efforts to the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take appropriate action for the formulation of a draft declaration and to circulate it, together with a compilation and a synthesis of proposals and/or suggestions to all Parties at least eight weeks prior to its fourth session.

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Decision 9/COP.3

Global Mechanism: first review of policies, operational modalities and activities

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 24/COP.1, 25/COP.1 and 18/COP.2 on the Global Mechanism,

Recognizing that priorities need to be established in the activities of the Global Mechanism, particularly in order to demonstrate progress in fulfilling its mandate,

Having considered documents ICCD/COP(3)/11 and ICCD/COP(3)/12 and Add.1 related to the Global Mechanism,

Having heard the oral report of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the comments made by Parties at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

A. Policies

1. *Reaffirms*, until the next review, the policies of the Global Mechanism as contained in the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the Global Mechanism shall function under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties and be accountable to it, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

3. *Recognizes* that the first priority for the Global Mechanism is to develop its operations as a demand-driven mechanism to facilitate the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes, particularly national action programmes, projects and national reports;

B. Operational modalities

4. *Recommends that* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism develop organizational arrangements which ensure proper attention to the African, Asian and Latin America and Caribbean regions and complete the recruitment of staff before the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Stresses* that the Global Mechanism shall promote and facilitate multi-source and multi-channel financing for the implementation of the Convention by, inter alia, providing affected developing countries with practical and operational advice on linking the financing needs of action programmes, particularly national action programmes, with existing and potential sources of financing in the best possible way;

6. *Underlines* that the Global Mechanism shall strengthen both policy and operational level dialogue with all members of the Facilitation Committee, bilateral donor agencies and multilateral financial institutions on mainstreaming financing

for the implementation of the Convention, and establish contacts with the private sector and other non-governmental sources of financing to increase awareness of the Convention and facilitate the identification of possibilities and definition of mechanisms for public-private partnerships for its implementation;

C. Activities

7. *Also stresses* that the Global Mechanism shall clearly identify priority activities and submit them to its fourth session for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties in order to ensure effectiveness and impact of its activities as well as to avoid overlaps with the activities of existing institutions and organizations, and therefore achieve concrete results, in the shortest possible time, in mobilizing and channelling financial resources to affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, for the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Recommends* that the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism take account of relevant ongoing intergovernmental negotiations, with a view to identifying at an early stage potential opportunities for, and innovative sources of, financial assistance for implementation of the Convention, consistent with progress in those negotiations;

9. *Emphasizes* that the Global Mechanism shall develop its activities with a view to facilitating financing for, inter alia, the elaboration of action programmes, particularly national action programmes, the preparation of national reports, consultative processes to conclude partnership agreements based on action programmes and the implementation of action programmes, including interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation;

10. *Requests* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to take all necessary steps to identify and draw up an inventory of relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention, as well as other sources and channels of funding and to report on progress made to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

11. *Encourages* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, in coordination with the secretariat, to organize during the year 2000 regional and/or subregional workshops in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean on procedures to access existing financial mechanisms, with the aim of mobilizing and channelling financial resources for implementation and the transfer of technologies;

12. *Invites* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to take concrete measures to clarify the possibilities for economic and trade opportunities arising from and related to the Convention and to report on the results to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session for consideration and adoption of any appropriate decisions;

D. Operational strategy

13. *Decides* to give further consideration to the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism at its fourth session and requests the Managing Director to prepare a document on the operational strategy based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the third session, as well as on written submissions by the Parties received no later than 31 March 2000, and to submit that document for consideration and a compendium of submissions;

Decision 9/COP.3

Global Mechanism: first review of policies, operational modalities and activities

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 24/COP.1, 25/COP.1 and 18/COP.2 on the Global Mechanism,

Recognizing that priorities need to be established in the activities of the Global Mechanism, particularly in order to demonstrate progress in fulfilling its mandate,

Having considered documents ICCD/COP(3)/11 and ICCD/COP(3)/12 and Add.1 related to the Global Mechanism,

Having heard the oral report of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the comments made by Parties at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

A. Policies

1. *Reaffirms,* until the next review, the policies of the Global Mechanism as contained in the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the Global Mechanism shall function under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties and be accountable to it, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

3. *Recognizes* that the first priority for the Global Mechanism is to develop its operations as a demand-driven mechanism to facilitate the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes, particularly national action programmes, projects and national reports;

B. Operational modalities

4. *Recommends that* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism develop organizational arrangements which ensure proper attention to the African, Asian and Latin America and Caribbean regions and complete the recruitment of staff before the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Stresses* that the Global Mechanism shall promote and facilitate multi-source and multi-channel financing for the implementation of the Convention by, inter alia, providing affected developing countries with practical and operational advice on linking the financing needs of action programmes, particularly national action programmes, with existing and potential sources of financing in the best possible way;

6. *Underlines* that the Global Mechanism shall strengthen both policy and operational level dialogue with all members of the Facilitation Committee, bilateral donor agencies and multilateral financial institutions on mainstreaming financing

for the implementation of the Convention, and establish contacts with the private sector and other non-governmental sources of financing to increase awareness of the Convention and facilitate the identification of possibilities and definition of mechanisms for public-private partnerships for its implementation;

C. Activities

7. *Also stresses* that the Global Mechanism shall clearly identify priority activities and submit them to its fourth session for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties in order to ensure effectiveness and impact of its activities as well as to avoid overlaps with the activities of existing institutions and organizations, and therefore achieve concrete results, in the shortest possible time, in mobilizing and channelling financial resources to affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, for the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Recommends* that the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism take account of relevant ongoing intergovernmental negotiations, with a view to identifying at an early stage potential opportunities for, and innovative sources of, financial assistance for implementation of the Convention, consistent with progress in those negotiations;

9. *Emphasizes* that the Global Mechanism shall develop its activities with a view to facilitating financing for, inter alia, the elaboration of action programmes, particularly national action programmes, the preparation of national reports, consultative processes to conclude partnership agreements based on action programmes and the implementation of action programmes, including interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation;

10. *Requests* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to take all necessary steps to identify and draw up an inventory of relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention, as well as other sources and channels of funding and to report on progress made to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

11. *Encourages* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, in coordination with the secretariat, to organize during the year 2000 regional and/or subregional workshops in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean on procedures to access existing financial mechanisms, with the aim of mobilizing and channelling financial resources for implementation and the transfer of technologies;

12. *Invites* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to take concrete measures to clarify the possibilities for economic and trade opportunities arising from and related to the Convention and to report on the results to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session for consideration and adoption of any appropriate decisions;

D. Operational strategy

13. *Decides* to give further consideration to the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism at its fourth session and requests the Managing Director to prepare a document on the operational strategy based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the third session, as well as on written submissions by the Parties received no later than 31 March 2000, and to submit that document for consideration and a compendium of submissions;

14. *Recommends* that the Global Mechanism develop, as part of the operational strategy for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session, an information and communication strategy, which will aim to facilitate contact with Parties and other actors, increase awareness of the Convention, and promote participation in its implementation;

15. *Urges* donors and international organizations, and the Global Mechanism within its mandate, to support the preparation of national reports;

E. Other issues

16. *Welcomes* the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis b, some countries, and invites Governments, the private sector and all relevant organizations, including intergovernmental, regional, and subregional organizations, regional development banks and non-governmental organizations, to make or continue to make voluntary contributions to, and actively support the activities of, the Global Mechanism;

17. *Also welcomes* the initial contribution made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the "Special Resources for the CCD Finance Account" and invites the Executive Board of the Fund to approve the transfer to the Global Mechanism of the outstanding balance from the commitment of US$ 10 million, as set out in the offer from the Fund to house the Global Mechanism;

18. *Invites* particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and other members of the Facilitation Committee to also make contributions so as to enable the Global Mechanism to successfully support implementation of the Convention;

19. *Also invites* Facilitation Committee members to strengthen their support to the Global Mechanism by exploring new financial resources, as well as through mobilizing, within their respective institutions, additional financial resources;

20. *Recommends* that the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities undertaken by the Facilitation Committee, the decisions taken and results obtained in implementing them;

21. *Invites* the Facilitation Committee to explore the possibility of inviting a representative of non-governmental organizations to attend its meetings and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the decision taken on this issue;

22. *Requests* the Managing Director to report on the activities of the Global Mechanism, including progress in implementing this decision, to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

23. *Decides* that the second review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism will take place at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2003.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

Decision 10/COP.3

Memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 24/COP.1 and 19/COP.2,

1. *Takes note* of the revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism[1/];

2. *Takes note* that the revised draft of the memorandum of understanding was approved by the Executive Board of the International Fund for Agricultural Development at its session on 28 and 29 April 1999;

3. *Approves* the revised memorandum of understanding annexed to the present decision.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

1/ ICCD/COP(3)/10, annex I.

Annex

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT REGARDING THE MODALITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, dated _____, between the Conference of the Parties (hereinafter called "the Conference") of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (hereinafter called "the Convention" or "CCD") and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (hereinafter called "the Fund" or "IFAD") regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism.

WHEREAS the Conference was required, in accordance with Article 21, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention, to identify at its first ordinary session, an organization to house the Global Mechanism established under Article 21, paragraph 4, and whereas the Fund submitted a revised offer to house the Global Mechanism, contained in Appendix II of the document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and supplemented by document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.3;

WHEREAS the Conference, in paragraph 1 of its decision 24/COP.1, taken at its first session, selected the Fund to house the Global Mechanism established under Article 21, paragraph 4, of the Convention;

WHEREAS the Conference, in paragraphs 1 and 2 of its decision 25/COP.1, also taken at its first session, decided that, in support of the functions of the Global Mechanism, the organization to house the Global Mechanism shall, as the lead organization, fully cooperate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank and other relevant international organizations; and

WHEREAS the Conference, in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 24/COP.1, requested the secretariat of the Convention, in consultation with the Fund, UNDP and the World Bank, to develop a memorandum of understanding between the Conference and an appropriate body of the Fund;

NOW THEREFORE it is hereby understood that the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism will be as follows:

I. FUNCTIONS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM

In carrying out its mandate, under the authority and guidance of the Conference, the Global Mechanism will, in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference, perform the functions described in the annex to that decision. As the housing institution, the Fund will support the Global Mechanism in performing these functions in the framework of the mandate and policies of the Fund.

II. STATUS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM WITHIN THE FUND

A. Separate identity of the Global Mechanism

While the Global Mechanism will have a separate identity within the Fund, it will be an organic part of the structure of the Fund directly under the President of the Fund.

B. Resources of the Global Mechanism

The resources of the Global Mechanism will comprise the following:

(a) Amounts received from allocations of the core budget of the Convention by the Conference to meet the administrative and operational expenditures of the Global Mechanism. These amounts will be held by the Fund upon receipt in an account termed "Core Budget Administrative Account";

(b) Amounts contributed voluntarily by multilateral and bilateral donors as well as other sources, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to meet the administrative and operational expenditures of the Global Mechanism and remuneration to the Global Mechanism for services rendered to a specific donor or group of donors. Such amounts will be held by the Fund upon receipt in an account termed "Voluntary Contributions Administrative Expenses Account"; and

(c) In accordance with section 4(f) of the annex to decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference, amounts made available for the use, as requested and appropriate, of the Global Mechanism ("Global Mechanism's own resources") for its functioning and activities from bilateral and multilateral resources through trust fund(s) and/or equivalent arrangements established by the Fund, including the proceeds of cost-sharing arrangements with the Global Mechanism. All these amounts will be held by the Fund upon receipt in an account termed "Special Resources for CCD Finance (SRCF) Account". The Fund will provide a grant contribution as part of the initial capitalization of the SRCF Account and seek matching financing from interested donors, taking into account the offer made by IFAD at the first ordinary session of the Conference in paragraph 48 of document ICCD/COP(1)/5.

C. Management of the Global Mechanism resources

With respect to the funds allocated from the core budget of the Convention and received by the Fund under (a) above, the rules of procedure and financial rules adopted by the Conference will apply to the transfer to IFAD of the said funds. With respect to the funds received by IFAD under (a), (b) and (c) above, all these amounts will be received, held and disbursed and the said accounts will be administered by the Fund in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Fund, including those applicable to the management of the Fund's own supplementary funds (trust funds).

D. Management of the Global Mechanism

The Managing Director of the Global Mechanism (hereinafter called "the Managing Director") will be nominated by the Administrator of UNDP and appointed by the President of the Fund. The Managing Director, in discharging his or her responsibilities, will report directly to the President of IFAD. The Managing Director will cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the CCD pursuant to decision 9/COP.1.

III. RELATIONSHIP OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM TO THE CONFERENCE

A. Accountability to the Conference

(1) The Global Mechanism will function under the authority of the Conference and be fully accountable to the Conference.

(2) The chain of accountability will run directly from the Managing Director to the President of the Fund to the Conference of the Parties. The Managing Director will submit reports to the Conference on behalf of the President of the Fund.

(3) The Conference will provide policy and operational guidance as necessary, including guidance resulting from the review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism to take place at its third ordinary session in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention.

(4) The Managing Director will be responsible for preparing the programme of work and budget of the Global Mechanism, including proposed staffing, which will be reviewed and approved by the President of the Fund before being forwarded to the Executive Secretary of the Convention for consideration in the preparation of the budget estimates of the Convention, in accordance with the financial rules of the Conference.

(5) The budget estimates for the Global Mechanism, which will be shown in a separate section of the Convention budget, may include administrative and operational expenditures to be financed both from the core budget of the Convention, and, if appropriate, from the Voluntary Contributions Administrative Expenses Account.

(6) The Conference will approve the programme of work and budget of the Global Mechanism, authorize the Executive Secretary to transfer resources from the General Fund of the Convention to the Fund for all or a portion of the Global Mechanism's approved operating expenses and reimburse the United Nations for any administrative support costs incurred in this process.

(7) The Fund will, as soon as practicable following the end of the financial year of the Convention, provide the Conference with an audited financial statement of the Core Budget Administrative Account in accordance with the Fund's normal audit procedures.

B. Reporting to the Conference

The Managing Director, on behalf of the President of the Fund, will submit a report to each ordinary session of the Conference on the activities of the Global Mechanism. Such reports which will be submitted to the Executive Secretary for circulation to the Conference, will encompass the following:

(a) The operations and activities of the Global Mechanism, including the effectiveness of its activities in promoting the mobilization and channelling of the substantial financial resources referred to in section 4(a) of the annex to decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference;

(b) An assessment of the future availability of funds for implementation of the Convention, as well as proposals for effective ways and means of providing such funds; and

(c) The activities of the Fund, UNDP and the World Bank as well as other relevant organizations in supporting the Global Mechanism.

IV. COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. General collaborative arrangements

The Fund will, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of decision 25/COP.1 of the Conference, fully cooperate with UNDP and the World Bank to proceed with, actively pursue and develop further the collaborative institutional arrangements described in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, including the establishment of a Facilitation Committee. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision 24/COP.1, the Facilitation Committee will include the Executive Secretary as its member.

B. Cooperation with the Convention secretariat

(1) The Fund and the secretariat of the Convention will cooperate and exchange on a regular basis views and experiences necessary to facilitate the effectiveness of the Global Mechanism in assisting the Parties to implement the Convention.

(2) In accordance with paragraph 5 of decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference, the Fund will work out with the secretariat of the Convention appropriate arrangements for liaison and cooperation between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of Convention implementation in accordance with their respective roles in implementation. Such collaboration between the Managing Director and the Executive Secretary will ensure the continuity and coherence of existing and future programmes of the Fund and the CCD.

C. Cooperation with other relevant organizations

The Fund will, in accordance with paragraph 6 of decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference and paragraph 4 of decision 25/COP.1, encourage active support for the Global Mechanism, as well as the establishment or strengthening of programmes to combat desertification in affected developing countries, by relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), and by regional and subregional organizations and regional development banks such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), as well as interested non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

V. FIELD OFFICE SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL MECHANISM

The Fund will make appropriate arrangements to obtain supporting services from the United Nations country team, operating under the leadership of the United Nations resident coordinators within the framework of the resident coordinator system.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Global Mechanism will be located at the headquarters of the Fund in Rome, where it shall enjoy full access to all of the administrative infrastructure

available to the Fund offices, including appropriate office space, as well as personnel, financial, communications and information management services. Any direct costs and associated service charges reimbursable to IFAD will be reflected in the budget of the Global Mechanism.

VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

A. Entry into operation

The present Memorandum of Understanding will enter into operation immediately upon its approval by the Conference and the Fund.

B. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding

The Conference and the Fund may enter in such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding as may be found desirable.

C. Termination

The present Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated at the initiative of the Conference or the Fund with prior written notice of at least one year. In the event of termination, the Conference and IFAD will jointly reach an understanding on the most practical and effective means of carrying out any responsibilities assumed under the present Memorandum of Understanding.

D. Amendment

The present Memorandum of Understanding may be revised by mutual consent in writing between the Conference and the Fund.

E. Interpretation

If differences arise in the interpretation of the present Memorandum of Understanding, the Conference and the Fund shall reach a mutually acceptable solution on the basis of the English text thereof.

FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Signed by: _____
Executive Secretary

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Signed by: _____
President

Decision 11/COP.3

Benchmarks and indicators

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 22/COP.1, by which it requested Governments to initiate testing of the implementation indicators identified in document A/AC.241/INF.4 as revised by document ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1, and to report on the utility of such implementation indicators in national reporting to the Conference of the Parties at its third session,

Recalling also its decision 16/COP.2,

Noting with appreciation the report of the ad hoc panel that acted as a steering committee to the open-ended informal consultative process on benchmarks and indicators[1/],

Taking note with satisfaction of the national reports of some affected African country Parties summarized in document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 and the other reports referring to this issue,

1. *Urges* Parties to initiate testing of the impact indicators proposed by the panel[2/] and encourages the use of these indicators as well as the use of numerical indicators enabling comparison of status on desertification and implementation, in national reporting to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session,

2. *Urges* also Parties and other countries in a position to provide assistance, as well as international organizations, to mobilize technical, scientific and financial support for the affected country Parties, and to initiate the testing of impact indicators, particularly at the national level.

11th plenary
25 November 1999

1/ ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1.

2/ ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1.

Decision 12/COP.3

Traditional knowledge

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 14/COP.2 on traditional knowledge,

Taking note of the report of the ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge[1/], the relevant documents prepared for the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session, and the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology on this subject,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to develop a closer working relationship with related institutions and to generate synergies through collaboration. Such collaboration should also foster coordination and linkages at the national level between the national focal points of the different environment conventions and facilitate both the dissemination of information about the conventions and action to implement them;

2. *Invites* Parties to include in their national reports on implementation, as well as follow-up on recommendations made in document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3, the use made of traditional knowledge in the implementation of the national action programmes;

3. *Appoints* an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge composed of 10 experts to develop further appropriate criteria in line with future work on benchmarks and indicators, to be used by national focal points so as to:

(a) Measure the reciprocity between traditional and modern knowledge and/or promote it;

(b) Assess how networks and mechanisms created by the secretariat (regional networks, regional coordinating bodies, national focal points) are incorporating traditional and local knowledge in their work programmes;

(c) Assess the socio-economic and ecological benefits of traditional knowledge in the light of environmental changes.

11th plenary
25 November 1999

1/ ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3.

Decision 13/COP.3

Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 25 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 23/COP.1 and 17/COP.2,

Noting the necessary contractual arrangements entered into by the head of the secretariat with the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of the Conference of the Parties for the completion of phase one of the work on the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies,

Recognizing the effort made by the United Nations Environment Programme and members of its consortium in this respect,

Taking note of the interim report on phase one of the survey and evaluation[1/], submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of its consortium of partners undertaking that phase,

Taking note also of a number of issues and outstanding questions that remain in terms of reporting on technical and financial issues from phase one,

Bearing in mind the utility of this survey and evaluation for the implementation of the Convention,

Bearing in mind also that phase two will necessitate a pilot approach to advance the survey and evaluation as a whole and further develop and test survey instruments with a view to evaluating both the interest and the capabilities of networks, institutions, agencies and bodies to support the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Supports* the realization of a second phase that will focus on the southern Africa subregion;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to draft the terms of reference for phase two of the survey and evaluation, based on the phase one report and the discussions in the Committee on Science and Technology, as well as possible further inputs from Parties on their expectations of phase two, to be sent to the secretariat no later than 31 December 1999;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to submit an update to the above report on phase one, based on the discussions of the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session and written comments to be sent by the Parties no later than 31 December 1999 through the secretariat;

1/ ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4.

4. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, at its inter-sessional meeting, and after satisfactory consultation with the regional groups, to approve the terms of reference for phase two of the survey prepared by the secretariat;

5. *Authorizes* the secretariat to initiate the open tendering process for contractors to implement phase two of the survey and evaluation, and subsequently to enter into a contractual arrangement with the successful bidder.

11th plenary
25 November 1999

Decision 14/COP.3

Early warning systems

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 12/COP.2 on the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Having reviewed the contributions of Parties received by the secretariat on early warning systems[1/],

Taking note of the reports prepared by the secretariat for the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology on early warning systems,

Taking note also of the existence of networks of early warning systems and desertification monitoring and assessment at the national, subregional and regional levels,

1. *Decides* to appoint an ad hoc panel composed of 10 experts with the following terms of reference: relating to early warning systems, to review and elaborate on the following technical topics emerging from national reports of Parties and regional forums on implementation of the Convention:

(a) Data collection, accessibility and integration;

(b) Evaluation and prediction of drought and desertification, and measures for preparedness, in cooperation with the follow-up to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(c) Dissemination of information to end-users on the applications of early warning systems and desertification monitoring and assessment, and strengthening of appropriate response mechanisms, particularly in the national action programmes to combat desertification;

2. *Invites* the relevant institutions which have operational responsibilities in areas related to desertification and drought and information systems drawn from each thematic programme network in various regions to provide experts and/or reference materials in order to support the ad hoc panel;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the functioning of this ad hoc panel.

11th plenary
25 November 1999

1/ ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6.

Decision 15/COP.3

Roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed the proposed roster of independent experts prepared by the secretariat in accordance with decision 13/COP.2, based on submissions from Parties through diplomatic channels,

Noting the efforts made by the secretariat to ensure that the roster is available in electronic form as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system,

1. *Invites* Parties to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster, with the aim, in particular, of:

(a) Making the roster more balanced in terms of gender;

(b) Ensuring better representation of all relevant disciplines;

2. *Invites* Parties which have not yet submitted nominations of experts for the roster, including full mailing and e-mail addresses, to do so before 30 June 2000;

3. *Further invites* Parties to report to the secretariat before 30 June 2000 on the use that they have made of the roster;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to ensure that an updated roster is made available in electronic form, as appropriate;

5. *Also requests* the secretariat to inform the Committee on Science and Technology at its fourth session concerning the use that has been made of the roster;

6. *Approves* the amended list of disciplines contained in the annex to this decision;

7. *Further requests* the secretariat to distribute a paper copy of the roster to Parties on an annual basis.

11th plenary
25 November 1999

Annex

LIST OF DISCIPLINES FOR ROSTER OF EXPERTS

Discipline	Example
Agricultural	horticulture, agricultural engineering, entomology
Animal science	veterinary science, livestock management
Anthropology and sociology	palaeontology, rural sociology, gender studies
Atmospheric science	meteorology, climatology
Ecology	population ecology, restoration ecology
Economics	finance, trade
Education	training and extension
Geography	cartography
Geology	mining, petroleum engineering
Hydrology	irrigation
Information systems	database management, geographic information systems (GIS)
Medical science	public health
Natural resource management	forestry, biodiversity conservation, land-use planning
Physical science	chemistry, physics
Plant science	botany, plant genetics
Political science	law, administration
Soil science	soil chemistry, soil physics
Other	all disciplines not included above

Guidelines

1. To maintain consistency, the roster should only use disciplines from the list.

2. "Other" covers any disciplines not on the list.

3. The analysis of disciplines should examine the first discipline list for each person.

4. In addition, the roster should also list specialization and geographic focus for each person.

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparing documents for the Conference of the Parties, to seek, as appropriate, the views of and inputs from relevant convention secretariats, as well as from relevant international organizations, agencies and institutions;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to continue his consultations with the executive secretaries of the other relevant conventions, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, on arrangements for liaison modalities at the Headquarters of the United Nations, with which they are institutionally linked, or with the United Nations Environment Programme and/or any other relevant locations;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to give special attention to the next Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity scheduled for May 2000, which has on its agenda a proposal for a work programme on dryland biodiversity;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to give special attention to the next Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled for November 2000, which has on its agenda a discussion of issues related to land-use, land-use change and forestry;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme and the executive secretaries of other relevant conventions, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention to facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical information and experience in order to enhance the linkages among various scientific bodies and promote efficiency in the reporting requirements of Parties under relevant conventions;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the implementation of this decision, bearing in mind the relevant resolutions and/or decisions of the United Nations General Assembly.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

Decision 18/COP.3

Enhancement of the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 27/COP.1,

Recalling also the important role of the Parties in facilitating the participation of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives from all over the world, particularly from affected developing countries, in the work of the Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the important role of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives in implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Acknowledging the need for inputs from the non-governmental actors in discussions on issues related to implementation of the Convention,

Acknowledging also that participation of non-governmental actors at all levels is a key to the successful implementation of the Convention,

Concerned by the low level of participation of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives, particularly from developing countries, at its third session,

1. *Welcomes* the important contributions made by non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives during the two half-day open dialogue sessions at its third session;

2. *Invites* non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives involved and interested in combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought to participate in its forthcoming sessions;

3. *Decides that* adequate time shall be allowed at an appropriate point in the agenda of its forthcoming sessions for interactive dialogue, as well as coordinated reporting by non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives on their activities in implementing the Convention;

4. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives shall be given opportunities to express their coordinated views at its sessions and in meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

5. *Invites* the international community, particularly developed countries, to provide support for ensuring a greater participation of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other civil society representatives, particularly from affected developing countries, in its future sessions, through bilateral cooperation and/or through contributions to the Supplementary Fund administered by the Convention secretariat;

6. *Also invites* international development institutions and intergovernmental bodies to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and/or other civil society representatives in its future sessions.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

Decision 19/COP.3

Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 21/COP.2 on consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure,

Taking note of the draft text of rule 47, as amended by decision 21/COP.2[1/],

1. *Requests* the President of the Conference of the Parties at its third session to continue consultations on the outstanding issue related to rule 47 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties and to report on the result of his consultations to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure on the agenda of its fourth session.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

1/ ICCD/COP(3)/13, annex.

Decision 20/COP.3

Resolution of questions of implementation, arbitration and conciliation procedures

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 27 of the Convention, which states that the Conference of the Parties shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also article 28, paragraph 2(a), of the Convention, which refers to arbitration procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

Recalling further article 28, paragraph 6, of the Convention, which refers to conciliation procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

1. *Decides*, in accordance with articles 27 and 28 of the Convention, to convene during its fourth session an open-ended ad hoc group of experts to examine and make recommendations, taking into account the documents prepared by the secretariat[1/] and in light of the progress of the negotiations on the same matters in other relevant environmental conventions, on the following issues:

(a) Procedures for resolution of questions of implementation;

(b) Annex on arbitration procedures;

(c) Annex on conciliation procedures;

2. *Invites* Parties to communicate their views to the secretariat by 31 May 2000 in writing on how to take this matter forward;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to compile these views for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat to update the information contained in the reports referred to in paragraph 1, as necessary, to reflect the progress achieved in this area in other relevant conventions, and prepare new documents for consideration at its fourth session.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

1/ ICCD/COP(3)/7, ICCD/COP(3)/18.

Decision 21/COP.3

Report on the Round Table of Parliamentarians

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration by Members of Parliament regarding the process of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, made by Senator Grant Chapmann reporting on the outcome of the Round Table of Parliamentarians, which took place in Recife on 22 and 23 November 1999 and which saw the participation of 39 Parliamentarians from 28 countries,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Declaration;

2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its third session.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

Decision 22/COP.3

Date and venue of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Decides* that the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Bonn, Germany, the site of the Convention secretariat from 16 to 27 October 2000, in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and meet the additional financial cost;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau to accommodate, by 29 February 2000, any offer from a Party to host the fourth session;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare for the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

Decision 23/COP.3

Credentials of representatives of Parties
to the third session of the Conference of the Parties
to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report[1/] on credentials of the Bureau of the third session of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the third session of the Conference of the Parties.

12th plenary
26 November 1999

1/ See also part I of this report and ICCD/COP(3)/19/Rev.1.

II. RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Resolution 1/COP.3

Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Brazil

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Recife from 15 to 26 November 1999 at the invitation of the Government of Brazil,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government of Brazil, to the State of Pernambuco and to the cities of Recife and Olinda for having made it possible for the third session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Recife and for the excellent facilities so graciously placed at its disposal;

2. *Requests* the Government of Brazil to convey to the State of Pernambuco and to the people of Brazil the gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

12th plenary
26 November 1999